which a sum of Rs. 37·25 lakhs is exclusively earmarked for works and contributions to the Village Panchayat and Unions. As a corollary to the enactment of the Village Panchayat Act, a general Panchayat election will have to be held next year and a provision amounting to Rs. 3 lakhs is made in the Budget for the printing and supply of Panchayat Electoral rolls.

Capital Expenditure

65. The budget for the coming year provides for a capital expenditure of Rs. 664·27 lakhs. Among the important items included in our capital programme I would mention Rs. 267·16 lakhs on Electricity Schemes, Rs. 76·76 lakhs for the construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works and Rs. 23·22 lakhs for industrial development. It is noteworthy that the whole of this expenditure is proposed to be met from current revenues and receipts from debt heads. There is no proposal to raise any public loans or to resort to open market operations to finance capital undertakings. The capital programme mentioned above does not include other works of a capital nature involving large expenditure like the Perunchani Dam, the Vadakkancheri River Valley Scheme, the Neyyar Project and the Vembanad Tidal Bund and Spillway Schemes which are treated as Grow More Food Schemes and are financed entirely from current revenues and from accumulated funds.

Electricity Department

66. The Electricity Department has made considerable progress during the year. It is the policy of the Government that before long our villages must be provided with electric lights and power supply to an extent sufficient to ensure the development of all the cottage and other industries. We have already extended power supply for de-watering and lift irrigation to various centres, to aid the food-production drive.

67. The capital programme under Electricity for the next year provides for an expenditure of Rs. 267·16 lakhs.

68. The Sengulam Project is expected to be put into commission before the end of this year and the construction of the Madupatty Dam also is progressing satisfactorily. The execution of the multi-purpose scheme at Peringalkuthu will be accelerated during the next year. With the completion of these new schemes, our programme to supply adequate power to all the industrial concerns in the State and also to extend power supply to villages all over the State could be fully implemented. From the financial point of view, the electrical schemes are expected to yield a net revenue of about half a crore of rupees in the course of two years.

Transport Department

69. An expenditure of about Rs. 18 lakhs is provided under capital for the Transport Department next year in addition to about Rs. 8 lakhs from the depreciation fund. The departmental workshop is nearing completion and with this additional facility, it will be possible to maintain our rolling stock properly in future.

70. The most important change made in the working of this Department is the transfer to this Department of the responsibility for maintaining nationalised routes, for which a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made in the budget. I hope the hon'ble Members would recognise that this is a legitimate charge on the Transport Department on account of the savings under wear and tear of tyres and rolling stock, which that Department will be able to secure by the outlay on roads. This Department has made all-round progress and the re-organisation of the staff is now engaging the attention of Government.

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